

## CLAIMS

I claim:

- 1        1. An online gift registry service, comprising:
  - 2            at least one server computer having an interface for
  - 3            communication over a computer network, the server computer
  - 4            having a processor and a memory, the server further having
  - 5            computer software stored in the memory and executing under the
  - 6            direction of the processor, the computer software including:
    - 7                means for publishing web pages on the network;
    - 8                means for identifying individuals who have access to
    - 9                the service;
    - 10                means for publishing event data describing an event
    - 11                for gift giving;
    - 12                means for receiving and storing in the memory gift
    - 13                data entered by users describing a gift associated with a
    - 14                particular event;
    - 15                means for publishing and maintaining calendar data
    - 16                identifying events for display on a user's calendar;
    - 17                means for storing and publishing gift list data
    - 18                listing all gift ideas posted on a user's gift list; and

19 means for storing and publishing group data which  
20 identifies user created groups and group members in each  
21 group.

1 2. The online gift registry service according to claim 1,  
2 wherein said member data further comprises special member data  
3 identifying individuals without access to the service, but for  
4 whom gift lists may be generated;

1           3. A computerized system for generating and managing gift  
2 lists, comprising:

3           at least one server computer connected to a computer  
4 network;

5           software means residing on and operable on the server  
6 computer for publishing a plurality of web pages on the computer  
7 network, the web pages including:

8           link means for linking a user to online gift retailer  
9 websites for purchasing gifts;

10           calendar means for posting gift-giving events to a  
11 calendar accessible to a plurality of users;

12           gift list means for posting gift ideas to at least one  
13 dynamically created gift list associated with an event  
14 posted to the calendar;

15           status means for permitting gift buyers access to the  
16 gift list and to annotate a gift on the list as already  
17 purchased or reserved for purchase by the gift buyer;

18           group means for forming a password protected group,  
19 access to the link means, calendar means, gift list means,  
20 and status means being restricted to a member of the group.

1        4. The computerized system of claim 3, wherein said web  
2 pages further include:

3        means for restricting viewing of events posted to the  
4 calendar to selected users and groups; and

5        means for viewing a list of all current events and the gift  
6 lists associated with the events.

1        5. The computerized system of claim 3, wherein said web  
2 pages further include means for permitting group members to  
3 communicate with one another through a secure chat room  
4 accessible only to members of that particular group.

1        6. The computerized system of claim 3, wherein said web  
2 pages further include means for notifying members of upcoming  
3 calendared events.

1        7. The computerized system of claim 3, wherein said web  
2 pages further include means for permitting user profile  
3 information to be viewed by any other user.

1        8. The computerized system of claim 3, wherein said web  
2 pages further include means for joining multiple groups and  
3 switching between different groups.

1        9.    The computerized system of claim 3, wherein said web  
2 pages further include means for designating special members for  
3 whom gift lists may be generated, the special members being  
4 without independent access to the system.

1        10.   The computerized system of claim 3, wherein said web  
2 pages further include means for linking at least two of the gift  
3 lists.

1        11.   The computerized system of claim 3, wherein said web  
2 pages further include means for importing the gift list from  
3 another group.

1        12.   The computerized system of claim 3, wherein web pages  
2 include means for changing the status of a particular gift on  
3 the gift list to one of "open", "claimed", and "reserved."

1        13.   The computerized system of claim 3, wherein said web  
2 pages further include means for restricting viewing of events  
3 posted to the calendar to selected users and groups.

1        14.    A method for online gift registry, comprising the  
2 steps of:

3            (a) publishing a website on a computer network;

4            (b) establishing a password protected gift registry area on  
5 the website for members of a group;

6            (c) providing a calendar in the gift registry area;

7            (d) recording a gift-giving event on the calendar; and

8            (e) associating a gift list created by one of the members  
9 of the group with the gift-giving event, the gift list being  
10 editable by the members of the group.

1        15.    The method for online gift registry according to claim  
2 14, further comprising the step of publishing a hyperlink to an  
3 online gift retailer marketing a gift recorded on the gift list.

1        16.    The method for online gift registry according to claim  
2 14, further comprising the step of publishing a status of a gift  
3 recorded on the gift list as purchased, unpurchased, and  
4 reserved for purchase by one of the members of the group.

1        17. The method for online gift registry according to claim  
2 14, further comprising the steps of:

3        providing an electronic message center on the website for  
4 exchanging electronic messages between the members of the group;  
5 and

6        generating an electronic mail message reminder on the  
7 electronic message center of an upcoming gift-giving event.

1        18. The method for online gift registry according to claim  
2 14, further comprising the step of restricting access of a  
3 member of the group to the gift list when the member creating  
4 the gift list provides for restricted access.

1        19. The method for online gift registry according to claim  
2 14, further comprising the step of establishing a gift list for  
3 a non-member of the group at the request of a member of the  
4 group.

20. The method for online gift registry according to claim 14, wherein said step of providing a calendar further comprises providing both a group calendar and a personalized calendar for each of the members of the group.